

8-2000

## Information Interface - Volume 28, Issue 4 - August/September 2000

George Washington University, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

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## Information Interface

Office of Educational Resources  
 School of Medicine and Health Care Sciences  
 School of Public Health and Health Services

August/September 2000

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### Student Welcome

On behalf of the entire Himmelfarb Library staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new Medical Center faculty, staff, and students. I would also like to extend greetings to all returning faculty and students on the start of a new academic year. The Library staff looks forward to meeting your information needs in the upcoming months. We also welcome your input! You may contact me at 202-994-1826 or [mlbam1@gwumc.edu](mailto:mlbam1@gwumc.edu). The Library's e-mail address is [himmelfarb@gwu.edu](mailto:himmelfarb@gwu.edu).

The telephone number for the reference desk is 202-994-2850.

Over the last few months, we have worked hard to extend the information resources available to you - especially in the electronic arena. Since many of these resources are reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter, I will just highlight the major additions. Currently, there are over 95 electronic journals available full-text at the desktop. Many of these journals are available directly from Ovid MEDLINE, making your search for and retrieval of articles an easy one-step process! Look for more electronic journals at your desktop in the coming months. Our collection of electronic textbooks has also greatly expanded with the introduction of Web versions of Stat-Ref, Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, and Scientific American Medicine. In addition, MD Consult, a web-based information aggregator, provides access for Medical Center patrons to nearly 40 major medical textbooks. New databases include DARE, an evidence-based medicine resource, and AMED, a resource for alternative medicine information. Simply turn to the Library's home page at [www.gwumc.edu/library](http://www.gwumc.edu/library) to access any of these resources!

Other changes in the Library have occurred over the summer or are in the planning stages. Effective July 1, 2000, the Library switched from its old photocopy charge system to the Gworld program, bringing it into step with other campus services. While implementation has gone well, there have been some minor problems. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Layton, Deputy Director, at 202-994-9756 or [mlbbal@gwumc.edu](mailto:mlbbal@gwumc.edu). A major expansion of study space for students is planned for fall 2000 as the Library expands into its new Terrace space on the lower level. Look here for further details!

Best wishes for a successful year!

*Anne Linton, Director,  
 Library Services*



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### New Staff Members

The Library Operations Department is happy to welcome back JoLinda Thompson. Ms. Thompson left The Library last fall when her family relocated to Alaska. As Systems Librarian, she is responsible for systems administration of the integrated library system. Ms. Thompson joined The Library in November 1995 as the Access Services Librarian. Her previous experience was at Eastern Virginia Medical College as a reference librarian.

Jamilla Shrestha joined The Library as a Library Specialist and Administrative Aide in late July. Ms. Shrestha and J. Marie Porter, Executive Coordinator, manage the building facilities and are often the initial point of contact for visitors. Although Ms. Shrestha's desk is in the Administration Offices, she also works with the Library's Photocopy Services Department. Ms. Shrestha worked at the American Association of Medical College Library for the last four years as a technical assistant.



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### The Library's Circulation Services and Policies

The Circulation Department at The Himmelfarb Library is responsible for the circulation of monograph, journal and reserve materials. In addition, the Department offers a photocopy service for materials held in The Library and maintains the self-service copiers on the 1st Floor. These copiers are functional with GWorld personal or departmental cards at the rate of \$0.09 per copy. Problems regarding GWorld cards should be reported to the GWorld office in the Marvin Center Suite 501 or at 202-994-1795. Audiovisual materials may be borrowed at the AV Study Center located on the 3rd Floor of The Library.

Faculty, staff and students of The George Washington University may borrow materials. Your George Washington ID serves as a library card once you register at the Circulation desk. Currently, monographs are loaned for 3 weeks while reserve material and current 5 year journals circulate for 3 hours. Monographs can be renewed twice either in person or over the phone as long as there is not a hold on that item and your record is in good standing (call 202-994-2962). Journals and reserve materials cannot be renewed. Overdue fines are \$0.25 per day for monographs and \$1.00 per hour for current journals and reserve material. For journals older than 5 years and monographic series, the fine is \$1.00 per day. The maximum fine for an item is \$25.00.

The Circulation Department is also charged with enforcing The Library's Access Policy. The Library's primary mission is to serve the faculty, staff and students of The George Washington University Medical Center. Due to limited space and study facilities, GW University library users not affiliated with the Medical Center may not use the Library after 6:00 pm on weekdays or on weekends. Please be prepared to show your GW ID when entering the library after 2:00 pm on weekdays and on weekends.



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### New Collections & Acquisitions

#### New Public Health Titles

- > Donaldson, L. J. Essential Public Health.  
(RA485 .D66 2000)
- > Egger, Gary. Health Promotion Strategies and Methods.  
(RA427 .H434 1999)
- > Fos, Peter J. Designing Health Care for Populations.  
(RA652 .F67 2000)
- > Goldman, Marlene B. Women and Health.  
(RA778 .W66 2000)
- > Green, Andrew. An Introduction to Health Planning in Developing Countries.  
(RA395 .D44G74 1999)
- > Hogue, Carol J. R. Minority Health in America : Findings and Policy Implications from the Commonwealth Fund Minority Health Survey  
(RA448.4 .M566 2000)
- > Isaacs, Stephen L. To Improve Health and Healthcare 2000.  
(RA440 .U6T6 1999)
- > Loue, Sana. Gender, Ethnicity and Health Research.  
(RA448.4 .L68 1999)
- > Perry, Cheryl. Creating Health Behavior Change: How to Develop Community-Wide for Youth.  
(RJ101 .P446 1999)
- > Schneider, Mary-Jane. Introduction to Public Health.  
(RA425 .S28 2000)
- > Stanhope, Marcia. Community and Public Health Nursing.  
(RT . C625 2000)
- > Thorogood, Margaret. Evaluating Health Prmotion: Practice and Methods.  
(RA427.8 .E95 2000)

#### New Physical Therapy Titles

- > Barnes, Michael. Textbook of Rehabilitation Medicine.  
(RM930 .B37 2000)
- > Campbell, Suzann K. Physical Therapy for Children.  
(RJ53 .P5P52 2000)
- > Carr, Janet. Movement Science: Foundations for Physical Therapy in Rehabilitation.  
(RM700 .M68 2000)
- > Curtis, Kathleen A. The Physical Therapist's Guide to Health Care.  
(RM705 .P47 1999)
- > Domholdt, Elizabeth. Physical Therapy Research: Principles and Applications.  
(RM708 .D66 2000)
- > Goodman, Catherine. Differential Diagnosis in Physical Therapy.

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*(RM701 .G66 2000)*

- > Jensen, Gail M. Expertise in Physical Therapy Practice.

*(RM705 .E96 1999)*

- > Konin, Jeff G. Practical Kinesiology for Physical Therapist Assistants.

*(QP301 .P73 1999)*

- > Lippert, Lynn. Clinical Kinesiology for Physical Therapist Assistants.

*(QP303 .L53 2000)*

- > O'Sullivan, Susan B. Physical Rehabilitation Laboratory Manual: focus on Functional Training.

*(RM701.6 .O88 1999)*

- > Ozer, Mark N. Treatment Planning for Rehabilitation: A Patient-Centered Approach.

*(RM 701 .O94 2000)*



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### The Bloedorn AV Study Center, Microcomputer Lab, the Women's Board Teaching Center, and Classroom Display Services

The **Bloedorn Audiovisual Study Center (BAVSC)** is located on the third floor of Himmelfarb Library and is exclusively for the use of Medical Center students, faculty and staff. A valid GWorld ID card is required for all loan transactions.

The **BAVSC** contains more than 1500 videotapes, slide/tape programs, audio CD, CD-ROM and interactive videodisc programs in the basic sciences and clinical medicine. An extensive audiotape collection is also available, which includes Audio Digest Journals on cassette. A variety of anatomical models are available for use in the Study Center. The **BAVSC** also provides study rooms and carrels equipped with PC's, slide projectors, audiotape players, and/or videotape players. The Library's group study rooms may be reserved through the **BAVSC**.

The **Microcomputer Lab** and the **Women's Board Teaching Center** are located in the AV Study Center and are for use by residents, staff, faculty, and students of the Medical Center. The Labs contain IBM-compatible PC's. Programs available for use include the Microsoft Office Suite and an extensive collection of Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI). Software is loaded on our Local Area Network (LAN). Additional programs are available on CD-ROM format. Microcomputer hardware and software do not circulate. Orientation to the Microlab are available; no registration is necessary. For further information, call 202-994-2856.

**Classroom Display Services** is coordinated by the Bloedorn Audiovisual Study Center on the third floor of the Himmelfarb Library. A full-time technician and a part-time evening technician provide audiovisual projection equipment and services throughout Ross Hall classrooms and conference rooms, weekdays between 7:30am and 8:00pm. Arrangements for weekend equipment must be made in advance. At least 48 hours notice is required to ensure equipment availability. A variety of equipment is available for loan and must be picked up and returned by the borrower at the Audiovisual Study Center Circulation Desk, third floor, Himmelfarb Library. A valid GWorld ID card is required for all equipment loan transactions. Audio and video duplication services are provided for a fee. There is no charge for equipment loan services. A departmental fund and account number are required for all of these services. Services are restricted to Medical Center affiliates. For further information, call (202) 994-2856.



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### Prometheus: Part of the GWUMC Experience

Prometheus, a course management software, was developed here at The George Washington University. It is the University's response to the faculty's request for a tool to get classes online, either for distance education courses or as an online component to traditional courses. Prometheus offers faculty a method to put their course and reserve materials on the web; and, it provides students with the flexibility to view course materials from campus or from any off-campus location. The number of classes using Prometheus is increasing rapidly.

**How do I know that Prometheus is being used in my class?** Your instructor will tell you about Prometheus in class. You will also be given a course ID and password to access the course materials through the web.

**What do I need to use Prometheus?** If you are planning to use a computer from home, you need an Internet Service Provider (ISP). ISPs offer internet access packages ranging from free to very expensive. For those new to the area or anyone wanting to change providers, use <http://thelist.internet.com> to see the options available in your area. The site will allow you to search by area code. Each provider offers a summary of their service.

**How do I access Prometheus?** Once you have established an ISP, go to the Prometheus site, <http://prometheus.gwu.edu>. Click on "Create New Student Account". Fill in the form with name, email, user name and password, then click "Submit". Record your user name and password for future use. Once you have created your personal account, you can join a course. The instructor will have give you the course ID and password.

Each instructor has decided which of the course materials will be included in Prometheus. Possibilities range from the course syllabus and lecture notes to slides and electronic reserves. None of this material will be available without the course ID and password. Print copies of reserves are also available in the Himmelfarb Library.



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### The Himmelfarb Library's Electronic Resources

The Library has purchased many new electronic resources over the last few months. The new databases and journals can be found on our web page <http://www.gwumc.edu/library>. Click on "Databases/MEDLINE" or "E-journals" on the left side of the page, or use the following URLs.

**Journals:** [www.gwumc.edu/library/eresources/ejournal.cfm](http://www.gwumc.edu/library/eresources/ejournal.cfm)

Academic Medicine  
Cell  
Neuron  
29 New Journals@Ovid Titles

AIDS American Journal of Cardiology	Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology
American Journal of Epidemiology	Journal of Family Practice
American Journal of Surgical Pathology	Journal of General Internal Med
Anesthesiology	Kidney International
Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences	Laryngoscope
Archives of Environmental Health	Mayo Clinic Proceedings
Arthritis & Rheumatism	Medical Care
British Journal of Surgery	Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise
Clinical Orthopaedics & Related Research	Nature
Diabetes	Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.
Diabetes Care Diseases of the Colon & Rectum	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Fertility & Sterility	Spine

**Databases:** [/eresources/edatabase.cfm](http://www.gwumc.edu/library/eresources/edatabase.cfm)

**AMED** (Thru Ovid) - The Allied and Complementary Medicine Database (AMED), produced by the Health Care Information Service of the British Library covers a selection of Journals in complementary medicine, palliative care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation and podiatry.

**Clinical Evidence** (Thru Ovid) - Clinical Evidence is produced by the BMJ Publishing Group. It provides a concise account of the current state of knowledge, ignorance, and uncertainty about the prevention and treatment of a wide range of clinical conditions based on thorough searches and appraisal of the literature. In other words, it contains a compendium of evidence on the effects of common clinical interventions.

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**DARE** (Thru Ovid) - The Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE) is a Full Text database containing critical assessments of systematic reviews from a variety of medical journals. DARE is produced by the expert reviewers and information staff of the National Health Services' Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (NHS CRD) at the University of York, England, and consists of structured abstracts of systematic reviews from all over the world. DARE records cover topics such as diagnosis, prevention, rehabilitation, screening, and treatment.

**MD Consult** - A comprehensive online clinical information resource contains 38 reference books, 48 journal titles, 600 peer-reviewed clinical practice guidelines, over 2,500 patient education handouts and much more.

**Clinical Textbooks (STAT!Ref)** - The Internet version of the familiar Clinical Textbooks is now online through the Databases/MEDLINE page. There are 16 books available including a new resource, Medicode's ICD-9, CPT, & RVU Coding Resource.

Himmelfarb's new software is available for your use in the Bloedorn Audiovisual Study Center on the 3rd floor.

#### Software: AV Study Center Labs

- > SPSS version 10
- > NUD\*IST
- > Epi Info 2000
- > USMLE Step 3 CD
- > Kaplan USMLE Step 1 CD 2 titles-simulated exam; practice questions
- > A&Lert USMLE Step 2 CD
- > USMLE 2000 Steps 1 & 2 CD
- > GermWare
- > Interactive Atlas of Clinical Anatomy/Netter
- > ACR Learning Files
  - > Ultrasound
  - > Neuroradiology
  - > Genitourinary (new)
  - > Nuclear Medicine
  - > Skeletal
  - > Pediatric
  - > Gastrointestinal
  - > Head & Neck
  - > Colon Cancer and Polyp Detection (new)
- > Diagnostic Reasoning(DxR) - A program that helps teach and evaluate clinical problem solving (20 cases).
- > DxR Clinical Competency Exam
- > Fetal Ultrasound Simulator
- > The Art and Science of Contraception
- > A Classical Approach to Vulvar Disease



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### MEDLINE Search Interfaces: A Comparison of Ovid and PubMed

MEDLINE is available to GWUMC students and faculty through two search interfaces, Ovid and PubMed. It is useful to understand the similarities and differences between these two interfaces so that you can decide which database suits your particular inquiry and searching style. Below is a comparison of some the search features available from Ovid and PubMed.

#### FEATURE COMPARISON

Search Feature	Ovid	PubMed
<b>Term Mapping</b>	Allows you to <b>select from a "pick list" of medical subject headings</b> associated with your topic so that you can choose the most appropriate MeSH heading for your topic (or search by key word).	<b>Doesn't allow you to select MeSH headings;</b> the system automatically determines which MeSH heading best matches your term. The system will simultaneously search by keyword.
<b>Explode and Focus</b>	Offers the <b>option to explode and/or focus the subject heading</b> that you select. Exploding means the database will also search for narrower terms associated with that heading. Focusing means you want to find articles where your subject heading is considered the major topic of the article.	Terms are <b>automatically exploded but not automatically focused</b> unless you begin your search with the MeSH Browser and select "Detailed Display." This will provide you with the opportunity to customize your query.
<b>Subheadings</b>	<b>Prompts you to choose one or more subheadings</b> that are associated with that topic.	<b>Does not prompt you to choose subheadings.</b> The easiest way to select subheadings is to begin your search with the MeSH Browser and select "Detailed Display" to customize your query.

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<p><b>Limits</b></p>	<p>Provides <b>more extensive limit options</b> for publications types, animal types, and languages are provided by Ovid. Ovid also allows you to select multiple limits of the same type (i.e. age groups).</p>	<p>Limit options are similar but <b>less extensive</b> in PubMed. You <b>can't select multiple limits of the same type</b> (for example, you can't limit to more than one publication type at the same time).</p>
<p><b>Combining Concepts</b></p>	<p>You must perform <b>separate searches for each concept</b> before combining the search sets using and, or, or not; otherwise the system defaults to keyword searching.</p>	<p>Allows you to <b>combine concepts without having to create sets for each concept</b>, and without losing the MeSH term mapping feature. You can also combine search sets using the "History" feature.</p>
<p><b>Searching Specific Fields</b></p>	<p><b>Guides you through the process of searching authors, titles, and journals</b> if you use the icons at the top of the screen. (You can't search for journal abbreviations in Ovid.) The "Search Fields" icon allows you to search for particular words or numbers in any field.</p>	<p><b>Doesn't guide you through the process</b> of searching for authors, titles, and journals. (You must already know, for example, that authors must be entered last name first, then initials). You can search for journal abbreviations. To search specific fields, use either the Citation Matcher or choose the specific field you wish to search from the "Fields" menu on the "Limit" screen.</p>
<p><b>Term Definitions</b></p>	<p><b>Provides links to brief definitions of terms throughout the search interface.</b> Click on the red "i" button to see a term's definition as well as associated terms for which it is used.</p>	<p><b>Definitions to terms are only available if you look them up in the MeSH browser.</b> Some citations in PubMed offer the option to link to "Books" which will redisplay the citation and abstract with some of the words highlighted as hypertext links. These links provide more information about that word from full-text electronic books.</p>
<p><b>Evidence-based Medicine Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Provides the search limit "EBM Reviews"</b> which will restrict your search to those articles that have been used as the basis for a Cochrane Review or have been the subject of a review in <i>Best Evidence</i>. Ovid's publication limits provide another useful way to limit searches to rigorous clinical studies. You can select multiple publication types in Ovid, but not in PubMed.</p>	<p><b>"Clinical Queries" feature provides a way of searching MEDLINE using predefined search filters</b> that retrieve clinical studies relating to etiology, prognosis, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease.</p>
<p><b>Links to Full-Text Electronic</b></p>	<p>When Himmelfarb subscribes to full-text electronic journals through Ovid, <b>there will be a direct link to</b></p>	<p>PubMed's "Link Out" feature <b>provides links to journal publishers who provide full-text</b></p>

<b>Journals</b>	<b>the full-text article.</b>	<b>journals, <u>often for a fee.</u></b>
<b>Local Catalog Information</b>	<b>Citations retrieved indicate whether Himmelfarb Library owns the journal</b> in which the article is found. The absence of such an indication means that the Library does not carry that journal.	<b>This feature is not available in PubMed.</b>
<b>Multiple Database Searching</b>	<b>With the latest version of Ovid, you can choose to search up to five databases at once</b> , including MEDLINE, AIDSLINE, CINAHL, EBM Reviews, HealthSTAR, etc.	<b>This feature is not available in PubMed.</b>
<b>Related Article Search</b>	<b>This feature is not available in Ovid.</b>	<b>Provides a "Related Links" button next to each citation for retrieving similar articles.</b>



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### Frequently Asked Questions

<p><b>Q: Where can I open/work on a document in Microsoft Word?</b></p>	<p>A: Microsoft Office (including Word) is installed on the computers in the Bloedorn Audiovisual Study Center (BAVSC) on the third floor of the library.</p>
<p><b>Q: How can I find the email address of a student at GW?</b></p>	<p>A: From the university's home page (<a href="http://www.gwu.edu">http://www.gwu.edu</a>), click on the telephone icon. Scroll down to the email search section and enter the name and status (student, faculty, staff) of the individual.</p>
<p><b>Q: I can't find the <i>Journal of American Medical Association</i> on the shelves but it shows that you have it.</b></p>	<p>A: For volumes after 1989, please look up JAMA on the shelves.</p>
<p><b>Q: I didn't get a notice from the library regarding my late books that's why I am late with my books!</b></p>	<p>A: Sending notices is a courtesy that Himmelfarb offers its patrons as a reminder. However to do so, we need accurate information on the patron. The responsibility of returning items on-time remains with the patron. To help us remind you, please give the Circulation Desk your e-mail address and update your mailing address with your school's dean office, registrar's office or personnel. By doing the above our records will be up-to-date and we can send you notices about late items.</p>

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### Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library Food and Drink Policy

The Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, as one of the most student-friendly libraries in the country, allows food and drink in the library under the following guidelines which are strictly enforced:

1. Effective August 17, 1999, drinks are allowed in the Library ONLY in one of two container types: A) thermal mugs such as the official Himmelfarb Sip and Study Mug or B) bottles with a pop-up closure. You will be asked to remove all other types of beverage containers from the Library. Please cooperate with Library staff. Individualized negotiations regarding acceptable versus not acceptable containers became too contentious to manage. Mugs are available for purchase at the Circulation desk for a reasonable fee. You may also stop by the Circulation desk for a free sticker with the Himmelfarb logo to affix to your thermal mug or approved water bottle. A poster featuring approved mugs and bottles is available for your review at the Circulation desk.
2. Food is allowed in modest quantities (e.g. sandwiches or snacks). Users are asked to clean-up and place wrappers in trash baskets. No food deliveries are allowed.
3. No food or drink is allowed near any equipment or computer workstation. This means no food or drink in the Bloedorn AV Study Center or Microcomputer Lab or around the PCs on the first floor of the Library.
4. Students who do not comply with these regulations will be directed to the Dean's Office (SMHHS or MISPH as appropriate) to explain their inability to follow posted regulations.

*Shelley A. Bader, Ed.D.*  
Associate Vice President,  
Educational Resources



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### The Himmelfarb Library Hosts PAHO Fellow

The Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library was fortunate to be selected as the host for a Pan American Health Organization Fellow during the summer of 2000. The Fellowship was established in 1998 to introduce fellows to various types of health sciences libraries and to their unique problems and needs. The program offers an overview of the programs of the National Library of Medicine, the American Medical Informatics Association and the Medical Library Association. The fellowship program provides fellows with the basic principles of managing health sciences libraries through presentations from the Himmelfarb Staff. Among the topics covered are resource selection, library space planning and design, reference and circulation services, public relations and budgets, history of medicine and information literacy.

Mr. Aditya Biswas, this year's recipient of the Pan-American Health Organization's (PAHO) Fellowship in Health Sciences Librarianship lives in Calcutta, India where he manages the All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health. This was his first visit to the United States and Canada. During his visit, Mr. Biswas attended the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association in Vancouver, Canada. Apart from the program's educational components, he participated in a variety of library activities, working with the Himmelfarb librarians and staff in administration and management, reference, circulation/ILL and computer technology. Mr. Biswas attended the SMHS Education Retreat and chose classes useful in carrying out the duties of his position in India.

At his farewell reception, Mr. Biswas shared his regret in leaving all the new friends he had made in the United States and expressed his hope of returning to the U.S. for another visit. He extended an invitation to the Himmelfarb Staff to plan a visit to India and especially to his library.



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### Himmelfarb Library Annual Book Sale!

On August 31 and September 1, The Himmelfarb Library's Annual Booksale will be held in the Levine Lounge. The booksale presents a great opportunity to supplement your collection from reference materials and textbooks which have been withdrawn from the Library's collection. Prices range from \$.50 to several dollars on the first day of the sale. On September 1, all materials are free. Please contact George Paul at 202-994-3682 with any questions.



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### Savvy Searcher

#### Overview of Database Resources

When you need medical information, you probably instinctively head for a computer and access the Himmelfarb Library homepage (<http://www.gwumc.edu/library>). From there, you may go a bit farther and access the Databases/MEDLINE page using the menu on the left-hand side of the screen. At that point though, confusion can set in:

- > Which database should I use?
- > How do I search it?
- > What will the results look like?

If you have any questions about searching or finding information, you should talk to the librarians at the Reference Desk. They are familiar with the databases available, search strategies, and methods for narrowing your search to the most relevant information. Plus, they are eager to help you! If you are not in the Library, you can also call in 202-994-2850 or send an e-mail ([himmelfarb@gwu.edu](mailto:himmelfarb@gwu.edu)). The Reference Desk is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. Saturday hours are 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Himmelfarb Library also offers one-hour classes to teach students, faculty, and staff to use information resources. These classes are free and do not require registration. Check the Library homepage for Tutorials & Instruction, or go straight to the [Continuing Education Course Schedule](#).

As you look at the databases offered, you will realize that a lot of them function in the same way. You can search a number of databases using the Ovid search system. Once you have tried this search interface on one database, you will have the tools in hand to search other Ovid databases. The Himmelfarb Library offers the following databases through Ovid: MEDLINE, AIDSLINE, BIOETHICSLINE, CANCERLIT, CINAHL, HealthSTAR, PsycINFO, SPORTDiscus, Journals@Ovid (Full-text), EBM Reviews:Best Evidence, and EBM Reviews:Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

While not all databases are available through the Ovid interface, you can transfer some of the search savvy that you acquired from Ovid searching to other interfaces. You can check these database systems for the mapping features and controlled vocabulary that you used in Ovid. You can also look at other databases with an eye toward narrowing your search to recent years, to human research, and to English-language publications.

In the past, database searching referred almost exclusively to indexes of journal articles and other types of periodical publications. In recent years however, many reference books have become available in an electronic format. While journal articles tend to describe recent research and study results, reference books can provide overviews of topics. When

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you need a definition or general description, reference books can provide immediate and full-text access to information.

Although some indexes are beginning to offer full-text articles and other publications, many extremely useful indexes still offer only citations and abstracts. This means that when you examine your search results, you will examine summaries and descriptions of journal articles rather than the complete journal article. While you may prefer full-text databases, remember that a lot of useful information can be found in the abstract of an article and valuable information may not be available full-text online.

When searching an index, use abstracts to your advantage. By reading an article summary, you may acquire enough information to know if the complete article contains the information that you need or if you need to keep looking. In this way, abstracts can save you time by helping you eliminate irrelevant or off-target articles and allowing you to focus on articles that have the information that you need.

You should select a database based on the type of information that you need: recent studies and journal articles versus summary information offered by reference books. MEDLINE is the most comprehensive medical database in existence and is frequently a good place to start for journal articles, while MDConsult and Clinical Textbooks both offer searchable collections containing multiple reference books. You will also need to decide between abstracted and full-text information sources, depending on the scope of your search and the time available. Your final decision will focus on the content coverage of the databases available.

The following annotated list of databases should give you an idea of the breadth and format of information available.

**AIDSLINE** (Ovid) - periodical literature index focusing on research, clinical issues, and health policy issues related to AIDS. Coverage: 1980 - Present. Produced by the National Library of Medicine.

**Allied and Alternative Medicine** (Silver Platter) - periodical literature index covering fields allied to medicine and alternatives to conventional medicine including acupuncture, homeopathy, palliative care, Chinese medicine, hospice care, physiotherapy, chiropractics, hypnosis, podiatry, herbalism, occupational therapy, rehabilitation, holistic treatments, and osteopathy. Coverage: 1985 - Present. Produced by the Health Care Information Service of the British Library.

**BIOETHICSLINE** (Ovid) - index of documents on bioethics from the disciplines of medicine, nursing, biology, philosophy, religion, law, and the behavioral sciences. Document types include journal and newspaper articles, monographs, court decisions, bills, laws, and audiovisual materials. Coverage: 1973 - Present. Produced jointly by the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the National Library of Medicine.

**CANCERLIT** (Ovid) - periodical literature index on all aspects of experimental and clinical cancer therapy, screening and detection, prevention, and genetics; including chemical, viral and other cancer causing agents; mechanisms of carcinogenesis; biochemistry, immunology, and physiology of cancer; and mutagen and growth factor studies. Coverage: 1983 - Present. Produced by the National Cancer Institute.

**CINAHL** (Ovid) - the Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health database provides authoritative coverage of the literature related to nursing and allied health. Coverage: 1982-Present.

**Clinical Textbooks (STAT!Ref)** - searchable database containing sixteen full-text medical textbooks including drug reference sources and specialty texts on current diagnosis and treatment.

**Cochrane Library** - regularly updated reviews of the effects of health care, critical assessments and structured abstracts of good systematic reviews published elsewhere, bibliographic information on controlled trials, information on the science of reviewing

research and evidence-based health care. Coverage: current. Produced by the Cochrane Collaboration.

**DXPlain** - a clinical diagnostic decision-support system that contains probabilities of clinical manifestation associated with different diseases. Produced by the Massachusetts General Hospital.

**EBM Reviews: Best Evidence** (Ovid) - enhanced abstracts and commentary of studies published in top clinical journals. Coverage: 1991 - Present. Produced by the American College of Physicians.

**EBM Reviews: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews** (Ovid) - full-text of the regularly updated systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare prepared by The Cochrane Collaboration. Coverage: current. Produced by the Cochrane Collaboration.

**eMedicine** - full-text online emergency medicine textbook. Textbook is peer-reviewed and constantly updated, providing "medical definitions, anatomical illustrations, audio, and video."

**Harrison's Online** - online version of Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine with additional features including recent clinical trial data, links to related web sites, and self-assessment questions. Produced by McGraw-Hill.

**HealthSTAR** (Ovid) - index of published literature on health services, technology, administration, and research including the evaluation of patient outcomes; effectiveness of procedures, programs, products, services and processes; administration and planning of health facilities, services and manpower; health insurance; health policy; health services research; health economics and financial management; laws and regulations; personnel administration; quality assurance; licensure; and accreditation. Coverage: 1975 - Present. Produced by the National Library of Medicine and the American Hospital Association

**Internet GratefulMed** - free access to MEDLINE. Coverage: 1966 - Present. Provided by the National Library of Medicine.

**MDConsult** - clinical medical information that includes full-text journal articles and clinics, reference books, clinical practice guidelines, drug information, and customizable patient education handouts.

**MEDLINE** (Ovid) - index encompasses information from Index Medicus, Index to Dental Literature, and International Nursing, as well as other sources of coverage in the areas of allied health, biological and physical sciences, humanities and information science as they relate to medicine and health care, communication disorders, population biology, and reproductive biology. Citations/abstracts of periodical literature plus selected full-text. Coverage: 1966 - Present. Produced by the National Library of Medicine.

**MEDLINEplus** - provides access through web links to extensive information about specific diseases and conditions, consumer health information from the National Institutes of Health, clearinghouses, dictionaries, lists of hospitals and physicians, health information in Spanish and other languages, and clinical trials. Coverage: current. Produced by the National Library of Medicine.

**Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy** - medical reference resource for clinicians that provide descriptions of diseases and disorders for clinicians. Produced by Merck.

**NARIC Disability Databases** - disability and rehabilitation information including indexes to published literature (1956 - Present), brochures, newsletters, and conference papers; a directory of projects funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research literature; and, a database of general disability resources including Internet sites, journals, magazines, newsletters, organizations, and reference publications. Coverage: varies by database. Produced by the National Rehabilitation Information Center.

**OSH-ROM** (Silver Platter) - indexes pertaining to occupational health and safety, and environmental medicine. Coverage varies by database. Produced by SilverPlatter's Health

and Safety Publishing group.

**PDQ** - contains peer-reviewed summaries on cancer treatment, screening, prevention genetics, and supportive care; a registry of approximately 1,800 open and 10,300 closed cancer clinical trials from around the world; and directories of physicians, professionals who provide genetics services, and organizations that provide cancer care. Coverage: current. Produced by the National Cancer Institute.

**POPLINE** (Silver Platter) - international index of periodical literature on population, family planning, and related health issues. Coverage: 1970 - Present (some sources date from 1827). Produced by the Population Information Program, Center for Communication Programs, Johns Hopkins University.

**PsycINFO** (Ovid) - periodical index of professional and academic literature in psychology and related disciplines including medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, education, pharmacology, physiology, linguistics, and other areas. Coverage: 1887 - Present. Produced by the American Psychological Association.

**PubMed** - free access to MEDLINE. Coverage: 1966 - present. Provided by the National Library of Medicine.

**Scientific American Medicine Online** - medical textbook covering all 15 subspecialties of internal medicine. Produced by Scientific American.

**SPORTDiscus** (Ovid) - serial and monographic literature in recreation, exercise physiology, sports medicine, coaching, physical fitness, the psychology, history and sociology of sport, training, and conditioning. Coverage: 1949 - Present. Produced by the Sport Information Resource Centre.

**TOXNET** - a cluster of databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, and related areas, including HSDB, IRIS, CCRIS, GENE-TOX, TOXLINE, EMIC, DART/ETIC, TRI, ChemIDplus, HSDB Structures, and NCI-3D. Coverage: varies by database. Produced by the National Library of Medicine.



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**Compiled by the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library from**  
**MEDLINE through July 2000 and other sources**

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